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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,418	10/21/2005	Amie Smirthwaite	78104085/N16680	3078

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Intellectual Property Dept.
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EXAMINER

SCHILLINGER, ANN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3774

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/526,418	Applicant(s) SMIRTHWAITE ET AL.	
	Examiner ANN SCHILLINGER	Art Unit 3774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 11, 21, 23, 24, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Song (US Pat. No. 5,330,500). Song discloses the following of claim 1: a stem graft for implantation in a body lumen comprising a tubular graft (2) having a first stent section (42, 44) comprising reinforcing material (col. 3, lines 40-42) formed into a first pattern (see Figures 6-8) and a second stent section (20) comprising reinforcing material (col. 2, lines 67-68) formed into a second pattern (see Figures 6-8), the first pattern being different from the second pattern, wherein the reinforcing material of the first pattern is disposed on the tubular graft in a pattern which osculates about a line which is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubular graft (see Figure 6), and wherein the reinforcing material of the second pattern includes separate spaced circumferential hoops extending circumferentially around the longitudinal axis of the tubular graft (see Figure 6), the tubular graft having a first diameter in the region of the first stent section and a second diameter in the region of the first stem section, wherein the first diameter is different from the second diameter (col. 5, lines 34-35).

Alternatively, Song may interpreted to disclose claim 1 where the first stent section is element 20, where element 11 form an oscillating pattern about an arbitrary line parallel to the device's longitudinal axis. The second stent section would then be elements 42 and 44. Their

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entire circumferential structure forms hoops that extend circumferentially around the device's longitudinal axis. Please again see Figures 6-8, and the text citations provided above.

Song discloses the limitations of claim 4 as shown in Figures 6-8, where the first diameter is interpreted to be associated with elements 42, 44.

Song discloses the limitations of claim 5 as shown in Figures 6-8, where the second diameter is interpreted to be associated with elements 42, 44.

Song discloses the limitations of claims 6, 7, and 9 as shown in Figure 6.

Song discloses the following of claim 11: a method comprising: a radially compressing a stent graft having (col. 3, lines 49-53): (1) a first stent section (42, 44) having a first diameter (see Figures 6-8), and including reinforcing material formed into a first pattern (col. 3, lines 40-42), the first pattern including a continuous length of reinforcing material which is disposed around the first stent section in a pattern which oscillates about a line which is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first stent section (see Figure 6), and (2) a second stent section (20) having a second diameter (see Figures 6-8) and including reinforcing material formed into a second pattern (col. 2, lines 67-68), the second pattern including at least one circumferential hoop of reinforcing material which oscillates about a line running circumferentially around the longitudinal axis of the second stent section (see Figure 6), and wherein the first stent section does not include reinforcing material formed into the second pattern, and the second stent section does not include reinforcing material formed into the first pattern (col. 5, lines 35-38); b. inserting the compressed stent graft into a catheter having an internal diameter which is less than the diameter of the first stent section of the stent graft (col. 5, lines 51 through col. 6, line 3).

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Song discloses the following of claim 21: a stent graft (2) for implantation in a body lumen comprising a tubular graft having a first stent section (42, 44) including reinforcing material (col. 3, lines 40-42) formed into a first pattern (see Figures 6-8) and a second stent section (20) including reinforcing material (col. 2, lines 67-68) formed into a second pattern (see Figures 6-8), wherein the first pattern includes a continuous length of reinforcing material which is disposed around the tubular graft in a pattern which oscillates about a line which is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubular graft (see Figure 6), and wherein the second pattern includes at least one circumferential hoop of reinforcing material which oscillates about a line running circumferentially around the longitudinal axis of the tubular graft (see Figure 6), and wherein the first stent section does not include reinforcing material formed into the second pattern, and the second stent section does not include reinforcing material formed into the first pattern (col. 5, lines 35-38).

Alternatively, Song may interpreted to disclose claim 21 where the first stent section is element 20, where element 11 form an oscillating pattern about an arbitrary line parallel to the device's longitudinal axis. The second stent section would then be elements 42 and 44. Their entire circumferential structure forms hoops that extend circumferentially around the device's longitudinal axis. Please again see Figures 6-8, and the text citations provided above.

Song discloses the limitations of claims 23 and 29 as shown in Figure 6.

Song discloses the limitations of claim 24 in col. 5, lines 34-35 and as shown in Figures 6-8.

Song discloses the limitations of claim 27 as shown in Figures 6-8, where the first diameter is interpreted to be associated with elements 42, 44.

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Song discloses the limitations of claim 28 as shown in Figures 6-8, where the second diameter is interpreted to be associated with elements 42, 44.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 25, 26, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Song in view of Datta et al. (US Pat. No. 6,338,739). Song discloses the invention substantially as claimed including spacer sections on the stent (32, 34), however, Song does not teach the different lengths and diameters of the stent as claimed by the Applicant. Datta et al. teaches in col. 7, line 61 through col. 8, line 37 a stent where the length and diameter dimensions are dependent on different factors including the anatomy of the patient and the type of surgical procedure being employed. Therefore, the diameters and lengths may be altered to properly fit the patient. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Song by altering the diameters and lengths to properly fit the patient. 1, 4-7, 9, 11, 21, 23, 24, and 27-29

Claims 8 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Song in view of Wu et al. (US Pat. No. 6,254,632). Song discloses the invention substantially as claimed, however, Song does not teach the specific dimensions of the struts as claimed by the Applicant. Wu et al. teaches in col. 4, lines 27-42 and col. 6, lines 1-12, a stent where the strut dimensions and device diameter depend on the patient's anatomy and the device's intended

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application. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Song by changing the struts' dimensions to properly fit the patient.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/30/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Song reference shows in Figure 6, a reinforcing material that has an oscillating pattern as it circles around an axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the device. The separate, spaced circumferential hoops located on section 20 may be seen on element 11 of Figure 1.

The claim language does not specify the locations of the first and the second sections, and the transitional phrase "comprising" is open-ended and thus allows there to be more elements than those claimed. Therefore, it would be reasonable to include both sections 42 and 44 as a particular stent section. The second stent section interpreted as element 20 has 6 peaks, thus meeting the limitations of claims 9 and 23. Please note that the stent may be considered as having an inner radial section comprising the middle region, and an outer radial section that comprises the distal and the proximal ends. Claims in a pending application must be given their broadest, reasonable interpretation, and limitations from the Applicant's specification and/or arguments may not be read into the claims. Therefore, the "section" may be broadly interpreted, and is not limited to the narrower description argued by the Applicant because the claims currently do not require more than a "section."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANN SCHILLINGER whose telephone number is (571)272-6652. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Isabella can be reached on (571) 272-4749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 3774

/William H. Matthews/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3774